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SOURCE Newspapers and periodicals as indicated.

ACHIEVEMENTS, SHORTCOMINGS IN WIRE COMMUNICATIONS IN USSR, RSFSR

The following report is a compilation of information on the growth of wire communications in the USSR and the RSFSR, as reported in Soviet newspapers and periodicals in 1952 and January 1953.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.<sup>7</sup>

USSR

Two Soviet communications periodicals, Sovetskiy Svyazist and Radio, in December 1952 and January 1953 published discussions of the Fifth Five-Year Plan and reported on general problems of communications in the USSR. In the Sovetskiy Svyazist article, B. Ramenskiy, chief engineer of the Central Administration of Intra-Rayon Communications, revealed that the 1951 - 1955 plan calls for the expansion of the telephone network in the countryside and for building more than 70,000 kilometers of lines and suspending 300,000 kilometers of wires. Up to 200,000 kilometers of single wire circuits are to be converted into double wire circuits, while there are to be no parallel connected telephones in interoffice trunks. Subscribers' circuits are to be unloaded considerably so that not more than two subscribers are on one circuit.(1)

The Radio article reported that the Fifth Five-Year Plan calls for increasing the length of interurban telephone-telegraph lines not less than two times, and for expanding the capacity of urban telephone exchanges by 30-35 percent. Radio explained that many thousands of kilometers of underground main cables would have to be laid and that scores of towns and populated points would have to have buildings to house telephone exchanges in a short time. In addition, Radio pointed out that according to the Fifth Five-Year Plan the question of opening the maximum number of communications channels would be resolved by constructing main cables or micro-wave lines of communications. It stated that the combined use of cables and micro-wave communication can enable thousands of rayon centers, workers' settlement, MTS, and sovkhoses to have an outlet to main lines of communications in a relatively short time.(2)

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Ramenskiy, in discussing intra-rayon communications in Sovetskiy Svyazist, explained that new techniques are to be introduced in intra-rayon communications in accordance with the directives of the 19th Party Congress. It is planned to install more than 1,500 units of high-frequency equipment for loading steel telephone circuits and up to 1,000 automatic telephone exchanges of small capacity.

By the end of 1952, Ramenskiy indicated, more than 200 terminal ATSVRS (Automatic Telephone Exchanges of Intra-Rayon Communications) handling 20 numbers each were to be installed and in operation.(1)

A discussion of general operational problems appeared in Sovetskiy Svyazist in February 1952. A great number of complaints had been made against the work of interurban telephone communication enterprises in 1951 in the Ukrainian, Latvian, Belorussian, and Uzbek SSRs, in Krasnodarskiy and Stavropol'skiy kraya, and in Krymskaya, Novosibirskaya, and Rostovskaya oblasts. Many complaints were made in connection with poor audibility.(3)

Ya. Basayev, chief of the Central Telephone Administration of the Ministry of Communications, explained in Sovetskiy Svyazist of December 1952 that line structures make up 60-70 percent of the cost of all structures of the urban telephone network. According to Basayev, a great quantity of copper, lead, steel, and cement is required for this construction, and reducing expenditures for these materials presents a great problem. Basayev declared that new types of telephone cables have been developed for which plastic is substituted for lead sheathing. He mentioned, however, that the problem remains of obtaining plastic which will not be changed by atmospheric conditions in less than 25-30 years and which can substitute completely for lead in regard to water resistance.

Basayev declared that the work of urban telephone exchanges of the Ministry of Communications cannot be considered separately from telephone exchanges and switchboard installations of other departments and organizations. He said that intradepartment telephone networks are of considerable size and in installed capacity make up some 75 percent of the total telephone economy of the country. He mentioned that these exchanges are planned and built without observing technical rules and norms and without coordination with the growth of the telephone communication of the town. Basayev stressed the need for such coordination and called on all interested ministries to follow the guidance of the Ministry of Communications.(1)

RSFSR

Another article in Radio of January 1953 explained that the main cable between Moscow and Leningrad demonstrated the significance of main cables for the national economy. According to the article, before the Moscow-Leningrad main cable was in operation 24 telephone channels were open along overhead lines of communications between the two cities. Formerly, 48 persons could speak to each other simultaneously, but with the main cable 500 persons can do so. Furthermore, Radio continued, the main cable enables Moscow and Leningrad to exchange radio broadcasts and in the none too distant future will allow them to exchange television programs.(2)

On 4 September 1952, Vechernyaya Moskva complained that, despite work done on the reconstruction and growth of the Moscow telephone network in recent years, it still does not meet the city's needs. According to the paper, shortcomings of the Moscow network are felt particularly in the city's outskirts where new housing projects have sprung up (e.g., Mozhayskoye shosse, Novo-Peschanaya, ulitsa Levitana, Tekstil'shchiki, Butyrskiy Khytor, Oktyabr'skoye pole, Khoroshevskoye shosse, etc). The paper stated that the full utilization of automatic telephone exchanges is impeded by the fact that the installation of lines is behind the construction of exchanges. It blamed a shortage of workers and accused organizations carrying out reconstruction of streets, thoroughfares, and squares of failing to supply means and materials for reinstalling underground communications structures as prescribed by decree.(4)

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On 12 March 1952, Vechernyaya Moskva reported that for 20 days already the immediate system had been put into operation on the Moscow-Leningrad telephone line. Moscow inhabitants wishing to call Leningrad simply dial K 1-05-00 or K 1-03-80. The immediate system has been introduced not only for the Moscow-Leningrad line, Vechernyaya Moskva continued, but also for connections between Moscow and Kiev, Minsk, Smolensk, and Vil'nyus. The paper predicted that in the near future the immediate system would be established between Moscow and Novgorod, Kalinin, and other towns. It explained that the Moscow-Leningrad telephone exchange is semiautomatic; the operator in Moscow can call a subscriber in Leningrad. It added that semiautomatic installation will increase the capacity of interurban lines of communications.(5)

Reviewing the progress of communications in Izvestiya of 14 June 1952, P. Alatortsev, chief engineer of the Bashkir Administration of the Ministry of Communications, pointed out that the communications situation was especially unsatisfactory at large new industrial works. Alatortsev explained that new industrial works are far from towns and rayon centers in a number of instances. He declared that technical plans are concerned only with intraplant telephone communications, and stated that, after construction of a plant or workers' settlement is completed, the absence of communications becomes apparent. Alatortsev urged that all technical plans for large projects be approved by the Ministry of Communications as far as communications is concerned.(6)

#### SOURCES

1. Moscow, Sovetskiy Svyazist, No 12, Dec 52
2. Moscow, Radio, No 1, Jan 53
3. Sovetskiy Svyazist, No 2, Feb 52
4. Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 4 Sep 52
5. Ibid., 2 Mar 52
6. Moscow, Izvestiya, 14 Jun 52

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